

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN:GMD

APPROVED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN

EUR/SE:WEAGLETON (SUBS)

----- 068281

P R 310026Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, ASEC, GR, US

SUBJECT: ATHINAIKI ACCUSATION THAT USG ASSISTED "ESCAPE
FROM GREECE" OF MRS. WELCH

REF: ATHENS 10245

1. LAINGEN TELEPHONED GREEK CHARGE NOMIKOS THIS AFTERNOON TO INFORM HIM OF ATHINAIKI ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING MRS. WELCH'S DEPARTURE FROM GREECE. AFTER NOTING TOTALLY SCURRILOUS NATURE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH WERE NOT UNCHARACTERISTIC OF PAPER CONCERNED, LAINGEN WENT ON TO REFER TO FACT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' TELEPHONE CALL TO AMBASSADOR KUBISCH EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT MRS. WELCH'S DEPARTURE BEFORE INTERROGATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. LAINGEN SAID DEPARTMENT FULLY SHARED AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF ASTONISHMENT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TELEPHONE CALL OF THIS NATURE.

2. LAINGEN NOTED THAT BITSIOS HAD SAID HE HAD
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NOT BEEN AWARE THAT GREEK AUTHORITIES HAD HAD THE OPPOR-

TUNITY TO INTERROGATE MRS. WELCH. NONETHELESS WE WERE SURPRISED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY QUESTION THAT EITHER MRS. WELCH OR U.S. MISSION IN ATHENS WOULD IN ANY WAY FAIL TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH GREEK AUTHORITIES IN RESOLVING THIS

TRAGIC MATTER. LAINGEN ASSURED NOMIKOS THAT THIS EX-PRESSION OF SURPRISE WAS NOT MEANT TO DETRACT IN ANY WAY FROM THE SATISFACTION WE FELT OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOG WAS DEMONSTRATING, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, ITS OWN CONCERN OVER THE WELCH TRAGEDY AND ITS DEMONSTRATED DETERMINATION TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

3. NOMIKOS SAID HE WOULD BE ADVISING ATHENS OF THIS TELEPHONE CALL. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: ATHENS
Type: TE
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